From: Seiden, Maya

**Sent:** Thursday, February 10, 2022 9:01 PM **To:** Seiden, Maya < <u>MSeiden@bgrdc.com</u>> **Cc:** Maney, Jo < <u>JManey@bgrpr.com</u>>

Subject: Greetings from Libyan Prime Minister-Designate Fathi Bashagha

Good evening,

As you may have seen, the Libyan House of Representatives this morning voted to name Fathi Bashagha as their new Prime Minister. He will form a cabinet and present to the House of Representatives in two weeks.

Prime Minister-Designate Bashagha asked me to share with you these remarks he delivered this evening in Tripoli and op-ed he penned.

Key excerpts from remarks as delivered this evening in Tripoli (translated to English)

- This government will be for everyone and by everyone. We extend our hands to everyone, without exception.
- I give my full respect and appreciation to the House of Representatives and the State Council. I appreciate the trust they have placed in me.
- We will always cooperate with the House of Representatives and the State Council. The government cannot succeed without cooperation.
- There is no place for hatred, no place for revenge. We open a new page based on peace, love, reconciliation, participation and teamwork.
- Our relationship with all foreign countries will be based on mutual respect, joint efforts, and coordination at all levels, particularly on the security front.
- We thank UNSMIL for its efforts and I look forward to a positive cooperation with them going forward
- I thank the Government of National Unity, headed by Abdul Hamid al-Dabaiba, who held
  responsibilities in a difficult period for Libya. This is a democracy that guarantees the peaceful
  transition of power, and I am confident that the government will abide by these democratic
  principles.
- I thank the young men and women of Libya, and I say to them that I rely on you and count on your positive interaction and participation.

If I can provide you with any more information, please don't hesitate to reach out.

https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2022/feb/10/moving-libya-forward/

## **Moving Libya Forward**



Libyans celebrate the 70th anniversary of their country's independence, despite widespread disappointment over the postponement of the presidential elections, which were scheduled to take place on the same day, in Martyrs' Square, Tripoli, Libya, Friday, Dec. 24, 2021. (AP Photo/Yousef ... more >

By Fathi Bashagha - - Thursday, February 10, 2022

## **OPINION:**

<u>Libya</u> has again reached a crossroads. Against great odds, the Libyan people have persevered to move our country forward on a path of stability, unity and prosperity. It is in this spirit, and out of respect for the desires of more than 2 million Libyans who believe our country's road to democracy starts at the ballot box, that I have accepted the support of my fellow countrymen to hold the position of Prime Minister.

I am mindful of the aspirations of the Libyan people. I will spend my time in this role working to ensure a better life for Libyans who continue to struggle to secure their most basic rights. It is time to take the steps necessary to realize our dreams of building a state that respects all of its citizens and offers them decent opportunities.

As declared in the roadmap set out by our parliament, I will guarantee that elections are completed by the 14-month deadline. We must work toward a credible election that is secure and inclusive. This will be my single most important objective as Prime Minister. Our recent electoral process had some security difficulties, including protecting citizens' data. We must seek to address those and any other election-related concerns to give Libyans and the world confidence in the credibility of the results of upcoming elections.

I will not make vague and unrealistic promises. But I will commit myself to ensure that the Libyan state does not incur further human and material losses. In addition to implementing the election timetable set forth by parliament, we must focus on serious issues in the health, security, energy and economic sectors.

We must redouble our steps to combat COVID-19 and its impact, starting with comprehensive vaccination efforts. Too many Libyans have lost their loved ones due to the pandemic, and too many have suffered the economic costs of the prolonged global pandemic.

Reconciliation among the citizens of our nation is crucial to ensure a successful electoral process and a future government that is accountable to all of the people it serves. We must work on initiatives at the local level and with a diverse range of groups in society. Our government must focus on bringing Libyans together around what unites them instead of focusing on our past.

It is time to develop a strategy to put <u>Libya</u> on the path to economic recovery. We must commit our support for the <u>National Oil Corporation</u>

(NOC), which has demonstrated its competence and ability to work under difficult circumstances. Corruption in previous governments in <u>Libya</u> has prevented the <u>NOC</u> from playing this role in the international community - I will seek to correct that. Demand in the international market is driving up oil prices. The <u>NOC</u> can increase Libyan oil and gas production, contributing to meeting the needs of the international market while increasing our national income and diversifying the state's revenues in the longer term.

We must learn from the lessons of our own history - a decades-long closed economy; years of division; control by the few over public funds; and the mangled financial, monetary and commercial policies that directly and negatively impacted the lives of our citizens. We must now implement sound financial policies to repair that history, including supporting rational policies that increase purchasing power and provide liquidity in banks; liberalizing the economy to help our nation's promising youth achieve their ambitions; and ensuring that our state institutions are providing services to our citizens, not just our elite.

I want to see a stable and secure <u>Libya</u>. We must have government accountability and prosperity for the Libyan people. I had hoped to be in a leadership role in our country through the presidential elections. But we must be adaptable and create new paths when the original paths falter. When I officially present the new government as Prime Minister in two weeks, I will be able to do what is most important – to support the Libyan people in their quest for a more promising future and ensure that we are building a stable and secure Libyan state.

 Fathi Bashagha has been named Prime Minister by the Libyan House of Representatives. Note: BGR Government Affairs, LLC has filed registration statements under the Foreign Agents Registration Act with regard to its representation and dissemination of information on behalf of Fathi Bashagha. Additional information is on file with the Foreign Agents Registration Unit of the Department of Justice in Washington, DC.

Maya Seiden Principal and Managing Director, International BGR Government Affairs, LLC

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